

**Fact Sheet
February 2003**

East Valley Middle School No. 1



Please Comment on Plan to Cleanup Proposed School Site

DTSC is one of six Boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. The Department's mission is to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality, by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.

State of California



**California
Environmental
Protection Agency**



As you may know from the Public Notice mailer distributed in December 2002, some chemical contamination was found in the soil on the site of the proposed East Valley Middle School No. 1. You are invited to review and comment on a Draft Removal Action Workplan (site cleanup plan) for the proposed new school site. The proposed school site is located in the Valley Plaza shopping center in North Hollywood. The boundaries are Kittridge Street on the north, Hamlin Street on the south, Laurel Canyon Boulevard on the east, and Saint Clair Avenue to the west. The site does not include the residential properties across from Bellingham or Saint Clair avenues.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED

December 20, 2002 - February 19, 2003

We invite you to provide us with your comments and questions about the soil removal plan for the Proposed East Valley Middle School No. 1. The public comment period has been extended to 60 days to give the community additional time to respond. This extends the comment period end date from January 30, as was announced in the earlier mailer, to February 19, 2003. On the back of this Fact Sheet we provide information on who to write your comments to, and where to find the technical reports that provide detailed environmental information.

THIS FACT SHEET TELLS YOU

- What we found
- How it got there
- That it is not a risk to public health
- Why and how we plan to clean it up
- How you can tell us what you think
- Who to contact for more information

The site cleanup will be conducted by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) under the oversight of our state agency, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). LAUSD is responsible for site selection, purchasing the property, site cleanup and construction. Our agency makes sure the cleanup work meets state and federal standards that protect the public's health and the

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environment. Under the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a draft Notice of Exemption was prepared for this project. It has been determined that the proposed cleanup will not have a significant negative effect on the environment.

SITE INVESTIGATIONS

The LAUSD conducted a Preliminary Environmental Assessment (initial environmental investigation) and follow-up Focused Site Investigation at the proposed 10-acre site. They submitted the final report to DTSC in May 2002. The soil was tested in several locations and the investigations detected a small area of hydraulic oil, which contains chemical compounds known as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, only in the soil near a former underground hydraulic hoist at the Sears Automotive Center. The extent of the contaminated soil is within the service bay in a 6 foot x 6 foot area that is 3 feet deep.

As a result of the site investigation findings, a site cleanup known as a removal action is being proposed to remove and eliminate the risk posed by the chemical in the soil. Once the contaminated soil is removed, the potential risk will be reduced to levels that will be safe for students and faculty. DTSC will oversee the removal action, and will ensure that the removal is performed in a manner that does not result in any harm to people or the environment.

NOT A RISK TO THE PUBLIC

The good news is the site is not a risk to the people who work there or to the people who live nearby. This is because the soil is covered by concrete inside the Sears Auto Center service bay. The concrete flooring is a protective barrier between the chemicals and the public. Also, the type of chemicals in the hydraulic oil tends to stick to the soil and stay where they are; it is unlikely that they have moved beyond the limited impacted area.

HOW THE CHEMICALS GOT THERE WHY WE NEED A CLEANUP

The chemicals came from hydraulic oil, which most likely leaked from the hydraulic hoist. Right now, the soil is covered (paved) and the public is not exposed. But in the future, when the school district begins the construction process to build the new middle school we need to remove the chemicals to make sure students and faculty are not exposed.

CLEANUP OPTIONS

Several cleanup options were evaluated. Protection of human health and the environment was the most important factor considered. The following options were reviewed:

- Option 1 – No Action

- Option 2 – Onsite Containment

- Option 3 – Excavation and Disposal

Any cleanup plan has to protect public health and the environment, have a reasonable cost, and be shared with the community. We think the best plan that meets these goals is Option 3, Excavation and Disposal. The contaminated soil can be removed in one truck, and transported for disposal. The preferred cleanup option was selected because it was determined to be effective, feasible, permanent and have a reasonable cost.

HOW WE PLAN TO CLEAN IT UP

The proposed Removal Action plan is to remove the concrete flooring, dig up about the top three feet of soil, and haul it to a state approved disposal facility. This will be about 4.5 tons of material, and will be removed in one truckload. After we haul it away, we will bring in clean soil to fill the hole and repave the area. LAUSD has the option of conducting the removal while the current businesses are in operation (depending on negotiations with the current property owner) or postponing the work until it has acquired the property and demolished the structures. The cleanup will last about 2 weeks

including digging out the soil, transporting it, follow-up confirmation soil sampling and analysis, and site restoration. Although this is the cleanup we propose, we would very much like to hear your thoughts and comments (see Comment Form).

DEALING WITH SAFETY AND DUST DURING CLEANUP

If the cleanup plan is approved as written, some noise from the earth-moving equipment can be expected on the day of removal. We will try to keep this distraction to a minimum. No traffic delays are expected while the truck is driving to and from the site. Here are some of the actions LAUSD will take to ensure safety on the site and minimize the impact of dust during the cleanup action:

- If the removal occurs when the Auto Center is operational: The removal area site will be fenced off from the public and the fence covered with plastic sheets to protect the workers and customers.
- If the removal occurs during the construction process: The entire site will be secured and fenced.
- All vehicles will maintain slow speeds while on the property.
- The work area will be lightly sprayed or misted with clean water to prevent dust.
- Water mist will be sprayed on soil loaded into the transport truck.
- The truck will be covered with plastic sheets as it leaves the site to prevent dust.
- The air will be monitored at the site to make sure the amount of dust stays at a safe level.
- Plastic sheets will be used to cover any piles of dug-up soil that may have to be left in place overnight.

YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE COMMENTS

You have the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Removal Action Workplan. The Public

Comment period was extended to February 19, 2003, during which time you can review and send comments to us regarding your questions and thoughts about the proposed cleanup option. Your comments must be postmarked no later than February 19, 2003. Send comments to: Jennifer Jones, DTSC Project Manager, (818) 551-2973, 1011 N. Grandview Ave., Glendale, CA 91201.

WHERE TO FIND SITE DOCUMENTS (TECHNICAL REPORTS)

The proposed cleanup plan is described in detail in the "Removal Action Workplan" for the proposed East Valley Middle School No. 1. This document also describes how we looked at the possible health risks. All the documents about this site are available for your review at the following locations:

Van Nuys Branch Library

6250 Sylmar Avenue, Van Nuys, CA 91401

Hours: Monday – Friday 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Studio City Branch Library

12511 Moorpark Street, Studio City, CA 91604

Hours: Monday – Friday 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Los Angeles Unified School District Office of Communications

333 S. Beaudry Avenue, 1st Floor,
Los Angeles, CA 90071

Phone: (213) 241-6766

Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Department of Toxic Substances Control Regional Records Office

1011 N. Grandview Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201

Contact: Jone Barrio

Phone: (818) 551-2886

Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

WHO TO CALL FOR INFORMATION

If you have any questions about the cleanup project or cleanup activities, please call the following persons at our agency: Ms. Treva Miller, Public Participation Specialist, at (818) 551-2846; or Ms. Jennifer Jones, DTSC Project Manager, at (818) 551-2973. Si desea información en español, comuníquese con: Sr. Eloy Florez, Especialista en Participación Pública del DTSC, al (818) 551-2875. For media inquiries, please contact Jeanne Garcia, Public Information Officer at (818) 551-2176. For more information about the DTSC, please visit our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

If you have any questions about the cleanup work schedule or onsite cleanup activities, please call Mr. Tom Davis, LAUSD Project Manager, LAUSD

Office of Environmental Health and Safety, at (213) 633-8258. **For information related to the school design and construction please call:** Sr. Frank Gonzalez, LAUSD Community Outreach Office, at (213) 633-3883. Si desea información en español, comuníquese con: Francisco Gonzalez, Oficina de Alcance a la Comunidad del LAUSD (LAUSD Community Outreach Office), al (213) 633-3883 o por correo electrónico: fgonzale@laschools.org.

NOTICE TO HEARING IMPAIRED INDIVIDUALS

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 to reach DTSC Public Participation Specialist, Treva Miller, at (818) 551-2846.

